

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-12  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00  
INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
/076 W

-----127418 131827Z /46

O 131637Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7965

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10793

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR EG IS US  
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT ON EGYPT/ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 92846

1. DOREEN KEYS' ABC REPORT STRIKES US AS A POTPOURRI OF UNEVALUATED IMPRESSIONS GAINED IN TALKING WITH SECOND-LEVEL GOE OFFICIALS THAT SHE IS ABLE TO MEET. SUBSTANCE OF HER MATERIAL SOUNDS VERY MUCH LIKE OUR REGULAR LOCAL SIEVE, USAMA AL BAZ, TALKING ELIPTICALLY AND KEYS TRYING TO PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER AND COMING OUT WITH SIX. SOME OF THE POINTS, SUCH AS ISRAEL AND EGYPT HAVING WORKED OUT AN AGREEMENT ON SINAI, ARE TOTALLY WRONG. SOME, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE CONCERNING PROPOSED DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, ARE A MIXTURE OF FACT AND FICTION.

2. ASKED ABOUT THIS LATEST REPORT, AHMED MAHER SAID FONMIN KAMEL HAD TAKEN IT UP WITH KEYIRLINED NAME SOURCE. KAMEL HAD SUGGESTED THAT SHE SHOULD CHECK HER SOURCES BEFORE BROADCASTING THIS KIND OF SPECULATIVE AND MISLEADING INFORMATION. KAMEL HAD AT ONE POINT CONSIDERED ISSUING A FORMAL DENIAL BUT HAD THEN DECIDED  
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TO IGNORE ARTICLE.

3. GAMASY, WHO HAD HEARD OF REUTER ARTICLE, TOLD AMBASADOR LAST NIGHT THAT THERE IS NO TRUTH TO THE ALLEGATION THAT THREE HARD-LINE EGYPTIAN GENERALS WERE BEING REASSIGNED IN ORDER TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR AN AGREEMENT. HE TERMED THIS SHEER NONSENSE. HE INDICATED THERE WILL

BE SOME REASSIGNMENTS, INCLUDING SOME SENIOR COMMANDERS, IN NEXT FEW MONTHS IN CONNECTION WITH SEMI-ANNUAL PROMOTIONS. THESE REGULARLY TAKE PLACE IN JUNE AND DECEMBER, BUT THESE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH PEACE DISCUSSIONS. (TAHSIN BASHIR HAD SUGGESTED TO EMBOFF THAT KEYS MAY HAVE GOTTEN WORD THAT J-3 GENERAL GRIDLEY IS DUE TO RETIRE ON GROUNDS OF AGE AND THAT SHE MISINTERPRETED THIS. BASHIR NOTED THAT GRIDLEY IS HARDLY HARD-LINE AND WE AGREE.)

4. NEVERTHELESS STORY HAS BEEN WIDELY PICKED UP IN DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND WE HAVE BEEN ASKED MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT IT. WE ARE SAYING STORY SEEMS TOTALLY SPECULATIVE AND WITHOUT MUCH SUBSTANCE, AND SUGGESTING THAT INTERLOCUTORS MIGHT BETTER QUERY GOE IF THEY BELIEVE IT TO BE SUBSTANTIVE.

15. COMMENT: THERE IS KEEN INTEREST HERE IN SEEKING TO ASCERTAIN STATUS OF STALLED PEACE TALKS AND WHAT NEXT STEPS MAY BE. IN THIS SITUATION, RUMOR MILLS ABOUND. ALTHOUGH GOE IS ANXIOUS AVOID STORIES OF THIS TYPE, WE ARE LIKELY TO HAVE MORE FROM AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PRESS. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE PLANS  
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**Draft Date:** 13 apr 1978  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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